Co-Cathedral of St. Thomas More  
Meeting of the Pastoral Council  
January 15, 2020

Present: Father John Cayer, Christa Calamas, Jeanne O’Kon, Michele Taylor, Dasha Nixon, Mary Goble, Sue Steverson, Valeria Robinson, Silvia Alderman, Chaney Coggins, Tyler Currier, Mary Ballard, Michelle Harkness.

Absent: Michael Williams, Brother Rahl Bunsa, Eli Nortelus.

Father John opened the meeting with the prayer.

The minutes from the November 20, 2019 meeting were approved as written.

CSU Update: Tyler Currier provided the CSU update. He thanked the Council members who donated during the CSU Phone-a-thon. CSU collected $108,000 this year and they have additional pledges. The Spring Retreat will be held on Feb. 14. St. Paul’s Outreach held a national conference that Tyler attended with students from all over the country. The topic for tonight’s CSU Spirit Night is lay saints. CSU will send a group of women to Michigan and men to North Carolina during spring break for service trips. A pancake breakfast will be held after this Sunday’s Masses to earn some financial support for the trips. Tyler is working as a student trainer this semester with the FSU baseball team.

Adult Faith Formation: Father John reported that Father Steve Olds from St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary will conduct a fall parish mission at STM. This spring, after Holy Week, Dr. Cronin will present a two-part series on the Resurrection. Formed.org is being promoted online.

Education and Faith Formation: Trinity Catholic School: Dasha reported that TCS will hold the 8th grade History Fair next week. The school’s Open House will be held on Jan. 26th. The annual Auction will be held on Saturday, Feb. 22, at the Tallahassee Auto Museum, and the theme is “A Night in New Orleans.”

St. John Paul II CHS: Catholic Schools Week is the last week of January. The students are doing service projects with the Kearney Center and other outreach centers. The school’s Open House will be held on Feb. 1st. Father Tom Dillon leads Mass in the school chapel. Praise and Worship is held on Wednesday nights and Adoration is held 9:00-3:00 on Mondays.

Administration: Construction Updates: Father John reported that a contract has been signed with Conrad-Schmitt Studios for the sanctuary renovation. They will come in at the end of January to take pictures and finalize the details. New lighting will also be installed in the church and around the church. The work will begin in February. Silvia Alderman said there was some negotiation with the contract, but that the outcome of the renovation should be excellent. The promotional material will show what the renovation will look like. Father John’s goal is to continue to say Mass in the church during the renovation.
Fellowship Sunday: Sue Steverson asked Council members to volunteer for the next three Fellowship Sundays (January 26, February 23, and March 22). Father John is looking for a volunteer to take Almira Malley’s place in handling some of the responsibility for the food for Fellowship Sundays.

“Committed to Christ: Living in Gratitude” campaign: Dasha reported that the campaign went well, and about 250 commitment cards were turned in. Tina Sullivan of Our Sunday Visitor reported that the STM parish response was very good and above the national average. The donors will give at a rate of 38% more than they gave last year ($164,000 overall).

Father John stated the Catholic Sharing Appeal (CSA) Presentation Sunday will be on Feb. 1-2, and Commitment Sunday is the following week. A nine-minute video has been produced that will be shown to parishioners.

Rector’s Comments: Father John indicated that the parish had been under a Diocesan audit for the protection of children and young people for 2018-2019. An outside firm performed the audit. All Tallahassee parishes were interviewed relative to compliances. The firm was very impressed with the compliance of STM. This Diocese was one of the best in the state of Florida. Also, a report will be coming out from the state Attorney General regarding the topic. There has been more online training provided for parish staff.

Father John would like to continue to work on the parish hospitality approach. The Hospitality Engagement group is focused on (1) first impressions (for those who are brand new to the parish); (2) hospitality to parishioners to increase engagement; and (3) deeper belonging within the parish (for those who want a deeper experience). He meets with the Hospitality Engagement group every other month. Hospitality is a Biblical virtue, and Father John wants to emphasize this within the parish and create a good environment for parishioners.

Father John also reported that the new FSU head football coach is Catholic and is attending STM.

New Business: The Red Mass is on January 29 at 6:00 p.m.

Future Agenda Items: Council members should an e-mail to Michael Williams with any future agenda items.

Father John closed the meeting with a prayer.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 12th at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.